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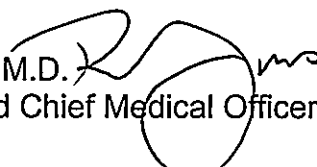
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through leadership,
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April 3, 2006

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bruce A. Chernof, M.D. 
Acting Director and Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: **DHS COLLABORATION WITH DREW UNIVERSITY
ON THE NURSING PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL**

This memo is to provide a status report on the possibility of establishing a nursing program in partnership with Drew University. After discussions with Dr. William Loos, Acting Senior Medical Director, and Vivian Branchick, Director of Nursing Affairs, I am not recommending implementation of a proposed partnership at this time.

Drew University has made significant strides in correcting deficiencies related to the graduate medical education identified in various Residency Review Committee (RRC) and American College of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) surveys over the past year. Drew University underwent a full ACGME survey in January 2006 but final results are not yet known. I anticipate a favorable outcome from the survey, but I am also cognizant of the fact that the University may receive citations requiring corrective action plans. King Drew Medical Center leadership and its entire staff are devoting their energies to prepare for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), conditions of participation survey later this year. After the CMS survey, the facility will also need to further prepare for the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) survey.

While Drew University and KDMC staff continues to make good progress everyday, both individually and collectively, the outcomes of these critical accrediting milestones are still unknown. It is premature to embark on significant new programs until we are confident that current programs are stable and meet accrediting agency's expectations.

I will keep your Board informed of the status of the nursing partnership with the university. If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

BAC:ac
603:011

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors